

HELMET

June 2020

No 502



EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

St Helen's Church

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Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Helmet editors or committee.

With thanks to Ken Pearce for the front cover

We welcome articles and news of interest from individuals and groups within the Parish of Alveston. Please send articles, digitally when possible, to alvestonmag@gmail.com

Or deliver to the post box at 1 Beech Close, Alveston. BS35 3NH, marked 'for Helmet'.

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Contact Elaine if you are interested in advertising (elainelee46@virginmedia.com)

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In the article from an old Helmet George White manages to write about church bells and end up mentioning grandmothers. I am sure that there are many grandparents and grandchildren missing each other, and realising how important they are to each other. In fact, we are realising how important others are to us and finding that we are helping each other out in many ways.

It is lovely that whilst people have been unable to work and had plenty of time to get on with the gardening and out into the countryside we are having unbelievably warm and dry weather. We have an item on Tockington because it is probably somewhere you have discovered or re-discovered on your walks. Walking across the 'golf-links' towards Old Down and into the woodlands, to come out at the field overlooking Bristol is one of my favourite local walks. I think that several people have looked out their Alveston Walks calendars for inspiration.

As we are feeling more confident and finding more ways of shopping please don't neglect social distancing and shopping in local, family run businesses. I have been reading a book on Permaculture, dated 1992, in which there is a calculation that a £10 spend in a supermarket puts £2 into the local community. Using locally run and owned businesses recycles that spend and puts four times as much wealth into the community.

Obviously we don't have any events to report on or for the diary. And from one day/week to the next we don't know what we will be asked/allowed to do. At Helmet we have tried to keep up to date with news from the Council. If you have any news or events to promote or want to send in an article please use the address/email opposite, and we'd particularly like to hear from some of our young people.

Diane Barnard

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Quaker Meeting, The Chantry, Thornbury	Sundays at 10:30
Thornbury Baptist Church	9:15, 11:00 and 6:30 most Sundays, check the website
Tytherington Baptist Church	Sundays at 11:00

A LETTER FROM OUR METHODIST MINISTER

Dear friends,

This week, I made a cake! Now, I know many of you will say “so what - I make cakes every week!” Well, I think this is about the third cake I can remember making since we moved to Thornbury! I have never had the time, or perhaps never made the time to do it. In a strange way the lockdown we are experiencing has allowed some good things to emerge – that isn’t to say it is a good thing, or that it isn’t very demanding, just that even in this difficult time good things can still be found. It might be making a cake, or it might be something else! The lockdown has forced us to realise how much we value human contact, how much we need each other, it has made us value the opportunity to walk in the towns and villages we live in, it has allowed families to spend time together in ways that would perhaps not have happened before, it has made us learn new skills, forced us to experiment with different technology and on and on! In an even bigger sense it has allowed us to slow down and consider the world we live in – the greed and materialism that has surrounded us, the poverty that has often been unseen or ignored, and to ask; do we really want to go back to those things? In an even bigger sense, the planet has had space to breathe, as industry and traffic and all of that slowed down, so has the pollution!

Despite all this, the Covid19 pandemic is a frightening, challenging thing, and thousands of people are grieving loved ones because of it. But those good things we see tell us that somehow God is still at work. In the mess of this world God is at work. Throughout the Old Testament God leads and guides the Israelites, even when they make a mess of things. In the incarnation Jesus, is born into the mess of the world, he dies on a cross surrounded by the mess of misunderstanding, failure, and denial. The Holy Spirit is given to a church who did not really know how to be church and argued about the way they should live! God is always at work in the mess of the world – sometimes we see it and sometimes we do not!

At the end of his life John Wesley’s final words were reported as “the best of all is God is with us”. The same is true today: God is with us still! So, look and listen for the signs of God’s presence in the world.

With every blessing
Simon

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is a part of Sustainable Thornbury and was formed in response to the October 2018 report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) which told the world of the need to become Carbon Neutral within just a few years if we are to ward off the worst impacts of climate change.

Locals may wish to get involved in sub-groups which it is hoped will be able to run in some form or another on energy, wildlife, food, waste, transport and public engagement.

For further information and details of the next meetings contact
cats@sustainablethornbury.org; www.sustainablethornbury.org

PRAYER AND HYMN
FOR USE ON
DAY OF HUMILIATION,
FOR RELIEF FROM THE CATTLE PLAGUE,
MARCH 21st, 1866.

O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, whose are the Cattle on a thousand hills, and in whose hand is the breath of every living thing, look down, we beseech Thee, in compassion upon Thy servants whom Thou hast visited with a grievous murrain among our herds and flocks. We acknowledge our transgressions, which worthily deserve Thy chastisement, and our Sin is ever before us ; and in humble penitence we come to seek thy aid. In the midst of Judgment, do Thou, O Lord, remember Mercy, for Thy Son Jesus Christ's sake ; stay, we pray Thee, this plague, by Thy word of Power, and save that provision which Thou hadst, in Thy goodness, granted for our sustenance.

Defend us also, gracious Lord, from the pestilence with which many foreign lands have been smitten ; keep it far from our borders, and shield our homes from its ravages ; so shall we offer unto Thee the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for these Thy acts of Providence over us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ST HELEN'S CHURCH NEWS

At the time of writing the lockdown had started to be lifted but it is difficult to say at what point we be at in that process at the time of going to print. As soon as we are able, both legally and safely we will open the Church following the Church of England websites.

We hope some of you have taken a look at our 'On Line' Church services found on RevsRural or maybe even joined in on one of our live Zoom services. If you haven't and you would like to but can't find the links then please check on the website www.sthelensalvs.co.uk.

Despite all the restrictions we have celebrated VE Day, Ascension Day and Pentecost in the last month with very enjoyable services with participants from all over the Benefice. When the new 'normal' is in place we will certainly be a more united Benefice which is a very positive consequence.

Rev Moss is in the process of planning an online Art Show featuring St Helen's Art Group and working with St Mary's Olveston to get an online choir/music group sing using acapella. If you are interested then please check the web site or contact Rev Moss for details.

As the pandemic eases and we have a little less restrictions on our activities we would like to remind you that we are still here to support and help you so please feel free to contact us if you think we can be of any help whatsoever. Telephone numbers are on the inside of the front cover.

In the meantime, take care, stay save and please follow the restrictions.

The prayer opposite was printed in the *Helmet* about 40 years ago, edition 108. It was described as 'A sheet printed in 1866 and found in the front of a very large bible discovered in the boiler house of St Helen's church'.

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ALVESTON METHODIST CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

There's a kind of hush from the Methodist Church in Alveston – closed until further notice. But that is just the building and as you know a church is the people not the building.

Many things have been afoot, literally. We have been trying to keep our worshippers up to date with what is and is not going on, using telephone calls (let your fingers do the walking), email and printed sheets, suitably prepared to avoid contamination.

Our Minister, Rev'd Simon Edwards has produced weekly short services on Facebook:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uJeT3TCcVyU>, well worth catching. The link is also on our Alveston Methodist Church page on Facebook. The link usually goes up late on Saturday evening.

The mighty internet has come into regular use for meetings and many of our older members have learnt how to use ZOOM to chat to church and family friends. Remember age is only a number and you can do it when you learn to click it.

We are still continuing with a fortnightly group on ZOOM, led by Pete Jones which is exploring their faith. If you are interested in joining please email Pete on: pete.z.jones@btinternet.com

A small group are continuing with a book called 'How to Pioneer even if you haven't a clue', by David Male. This is a great Friday morning get-together with the Ark Team and once the issues with joining the sessions were sorted out, we have had some good conversations as to where the church can go from here, once some normality is back. The Fellowship, worshippers and others have been asked how they see the church of the not to distant future and we hope there will be vision, reflection and renewal as we seek to do God's will in Alveston.

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Mindful Meanderings

Do you read? As in, do you devour any printed matter that comes your way? A lot of us have this little weakness and long may it continue. The last 7 or 8 weeks have been, like, the biggest excuse ever to indulge in your hobbies, and none more-so than reading. So here is my personal list, starting with the magazines.

Gardener's World has been perused in great detail leading to great promise in the garden. The extended vegetable patch has been suitably dug, manured and raked ready for the grand variety of healthy food that we shall plant, pick and eat. There has been time to sit and watch the dragon flies flying in tandem and to observe the female dip along the water surface laying her eggs. In the over-hot porch, the leggy seedlings wait in hope to be planted out once the nasty frosts have gone.

There are other magazines scattered round the house, like Bridge, Camping and Caravanning, Practical Boat Owner and The Economist (donated to us), none of which are a source of inspiration at present.

And so to books. The first two weeks of Lockdown passed very quickly finishing the third of Hilary Mantel's epic trilogy, The Mirror and the Light, all 875 pages of it. Brilliant of course, if a trifle too long. The monthly book club has become a support group, sharing news on Waitrose queues as well as suggestions for reading. Our final book before life as we know it had ceased, was People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks which we loved or hated as usual, but couldn't discuss over the usual homemade soup lunch so wrote critiques slightly more sensibly than if we chatted about it in someone's house.

Then there were the books borrowed from friends or picked out of a box outside a good neighbour's front drive, free to a good home. After the obligatory 48 hours in quarantine in the garage they were brought in and I now have George, A Muller's Boy; two Alan Titchmarsh' biographies, not soppy novels; two soppy novels which will be ideal for the sun-lounger days; the book I was aiming to tell you about at the beginning of this indulgent page filler which is 'The Hiding Place' by Corrie ten Boom.

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As food prices rise, and we contemplate the impact of our globalised food industry on greenhouse gas emissions, stop buying the stuff and then throwing it in the bin.... If food waste was a country, it would be the third biggest emitter, apparently – that's more than aviation..... (Nikki Jones)

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I hope you have heard of this remarkable woman and what she did to help Jews escape the Nazis from the Holocaust during the second world war. Her astonishing memoir 'The Hiding Place', is one of the greatest Christian testimonies of our time, an inspiration to millions. I've just started a prequel, in which Corrie tells us about her childhood and family life leading up to the brink of war. I don't usually read Christian books that I am told I really ought to read but at last I have discovered why it is so powerful. We are living in a time in which we are not sure what God's plan is for us, for this country, for the planet. Never before in human history have guidelines been more important. I shall leave you with a quote from the foreword of 'In my Father's House', the years before 'The Hiding Place'

Today I know that memories are the key not to the past, but to the future. I know that experiences of our lives, when we let God use them, become the Mysterious and perfect preparation for the work He will give us to do.
 Corrie ten Boom 1976

MS

EDITOR'S NOTE It was only this morning that I was watching something on YouTube (Big Church Day Out) and the next thing suggested for me was some teaching by Corrie Ten Boom. I have now found that the film The Hiding Place is also there. Just search with her name. I doubt there is more than one person that would come up.
 DB



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FROM SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL

Government, and hence South Glos Council, advice is changing so much that however late we leave it to go to press a monthly magazine can't keep up to date. However S Glos Council send out regular emails and ask that the information in them be shared around.

Recycling bins are back to weekly collections and the tips are open but with restrictions. At the time of writing there are none of the normal channels for passing on textiles and there have been lots of fly-tipping type problems, with bags being left by the normal collection bins.

Staying safe in our parks and open spaces

Following the Government's new guidance, from 13 May, you have been able to do the following out of doors:

Spend time outdoors – e.g. sitting and enjoying the fresh air, picnicking, or sunbathing

Meet one other person from a different household outdoors - following social distancing guidelines.

Exercise outdoors as often as you wish - following social distancing guidelines.

Use outdoor sports courts or facilities, such as a tennis or basketball court, or golf course – with members of your household, or one other person while staying two metres apart. You still cannot use an outdoor gym or playground.

At all times, you should continue to observe social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home, including ensuring you are two metres away from anyone outside your household.

Improving walking and cycling: Request safety measures. Roads are quieter and the air is cleaner because there's less traffic during lockdown. We're putting measures in place to make roads even safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists so we can all continue to observe social distancing.

You may have noticed areas which could benefit from some safety improvements. You can request new safety measures, such as traffic signals, a lower speed limit and temporary road signs, via our [online form](#). We investigate all suggested improvements, and the highest priority schemes are taken forward on our capital programme. This fits with our ambition to increase walking and cycling in South Gloucestershire – around £6 million is being invested across the district on initiatives and schemes, in addition to cycling facilities that are part of wider projects.

Supporting schools to re-open. We're developing plans so that schools can re-open safely in line with the government's recovery strategy. We're doing all we can to work with schools and support them with the arrangements they'll need to have in place to maintain social distancing.

Help to transform a child's life as a foster carer. Are you interested in becoming a foster carer? We're encouraging people to come forward for this rewarding career this Foster Care Fortnight (11 – 24 May). We currently have a shortage of foster carers which we predict will only increase during the Covid-19 outbreak. In South Gloucestershire alone there are over 220 children and young people in care at any one time. See [here](#)

Join our team of carers. Step forward now for a caring role – we have temporary, permanent, full or part-time paid jobs across South Gloucestershire and applying is easy! You'll learn on the job and will be provided with training. You don't need a CV – click [here](#) and follow the homepage link for full details.

Reminder: Funding still available for community aid groups. Don't forget that if you're a member of a community-based group that is helping the most vulnerable and isolated in our society during the Covid-19 pandemic, your group may be eligible to apply to our councillors for Member Awarded Funding. We've temporarily amended the rules governing how this money can be allocated so that smaller and less formal groups are able to receive it. See [here](#).

Following the article in last month's Helmet on "The Bell" at St. Helens, the following letter has been received from Sir George White.

I was fascinated by the piece in The Helmet on the church bell, but as one or two details did not seem to ring true, I consulted Mary Bliss, who is chairman of the Clocks and Bells Committee of the Council for the Care of Churches and Bells Adviser to the Diocese of Gloucester. She in turn consulted Rev. David Cawley, Bells Adviser to the Bristol Diocese.

It appears that Old St. Helen's had three bells. Two were cast in the Bristol foundry (not far from the Cathedral) c.1450, the third was cast by John Pennington in 1635. One medieval bell and the 17th century bell were moved to the present St. Helens, becoming the second and third bells of the ring of six. The other was transferred to St. Mary's, Winterbourne, where it remains. The connection with Cherhill, Wiltshire seems to be simply that a similar medieval bell exists in the church there, also cast in the Bristol foundry and of about the same date.

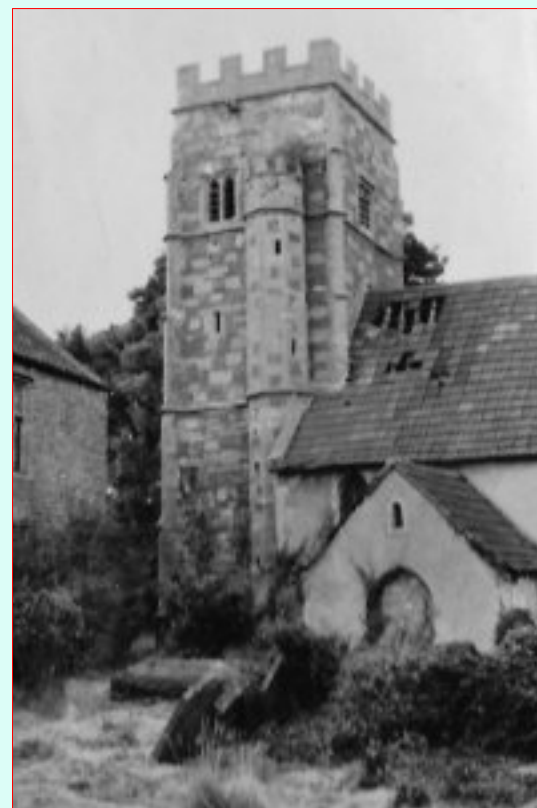
The inscription on our medieval bell is not "a name", followed by "pray for us", but translates as "Saint Anne, pray for us".

St. Anne was said to be the mother of the Virgin Mary and grandmother of Christ. Her story was told in the 13th century Golden Legend, taken from apocryphal New Testament literature, where it was said that Anne and her husband Joachim were without children after twenty years of marriage. Joachim, in despair went out into the desert, but an angel appeared to him telling him that his wife would conceive and bear Mary, mother of the Saviour, and that he must go to the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. The angel then appeared to Anne, telling her to meet her husband there. From the moment of their kiss, it was said that Anne became with child.

Medieval legend also suggested that St. Anne married three times, each time bearing a daughter called Mary. Her first child was the mother of Jesus, the second the mother of St James the Less, Joseph, Simon and Jude. The third was mother of St. James the Greater and St. John the Evangelist.

Why our bell is dedicated to St. Anne is not known, though it appears that she was an unusually popular saint in the Bristol region.

Perhaps if we do wonder "for whom the bell tolls" when our bell is rung, we should spare a thought for the childless - and certainly give thanks for grandmothers, for St. Anne was the most remarkable of them all.



Part of the
original St Helen's
Church in
Rudgeway. From
a 1951
newspaper
article.

METHODIST CHURCH ARCHIVES

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(Minicom 01454 868010). Text Service 07950 080111

Social services Emergencies 01454 866114.

Adult Care/Mental Health 01454 868007.

Children and young People 01454 868008.

Benefits 01454 868002 (Report suspected fraud 0800 073 7377)

Council Tax 01454 868003

Environmental Health and Trading Standards 01454 868001

Housing 01454 868005.

Leisure and Libraries 01454 868006.

Leisure centres 0300 333 0300

Planning & Transportation 01454 868004

Street Care 01454 868000, streetcare@southglos.gov.uk (dog warden,
rubbish and recycling etc)

For more information www.southglos.gov.uk

UTILITIES

Electricity network 0845 7331331;

Gas leak – 0800 111999

Police/Crime – non emergency call 101.

Sign up for community alerts www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/account

Local policing team – www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CN212/

Neighbourhood Watch – register at Ourwatch www.asnwa.org/
registration;

Fraud prevention & alerts www.actionfraud.police.uk 0300 123 2040

Crimestoppers - Report anonymously 0800 555111.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Health – NHS advice for non emergency situation 111 (24 hours).
www.nhs.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following groups and organisations meet regularly in normal circumstances :

St Helen's Pre-school Little Stars at St Helen's School: Mon-Fri 8:50-15:30
Toddler Group, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: Mondays 9:45-11:45 (term time)
Orthopaedic Pilates, CTK: Mondays 9:30am from 6th April (07977632003)
Fitness Pilates, Alveston Youth Centre: Tuesdays 11:00
Thornbury & S Glos Amateur Radio Club, The Chantry: Wed 7:30pm (413 177)
Luncheon Club, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: Thursdays 2:15
Zumba Fitness, St Helen's School: Thursdays 6-6:55 pm and 8:05-9pm
Fitness Pilates, St Helen's School: Thursdays 7-7:55 pm
Thornbury Chamber Players: MC: fortnightly Thurs 7:45-9:45 pm
Sharon Phillips School of Dancing, St Helen's School: Mondays; Jubilee Hall: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat; Alveston Youth Centre: Fri and Sat.
Play and Praise, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: 1st and 3rd Fridays 2:15-3:15
Breakfast Club, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: 1st and 3rd Sundays 10:00

Please pass on your annual programmes and details of future events (deadline 1st of the month) to Tony Houghton, 2 Beanhill Crescent, BS35 3JG. They can be accepted by email to Diaryhelmet@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19 EVENTS HAVE CURRENTLY BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. WE HAVE AGAIN DECIDED NOT TO PRINT THIS MONTH AND HAVE PUBLISHED AS LATE AS POSSIBLE BUT NEWS STILL GOES OUT OF DATE QUICKLY. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU CHECK WITH THE ORGANISERS IF YOU ARE UNSURE.

KEEP SAFE, WASH YOUR HANDS, LOOK OUT FOR NEIGHBOURS AND FOLLOW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES. Beware of scam emails and DON'T FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Alveston Repair Cafés are booked for 12th September and the 14th Nov at St Helen's Church Alveston between 10am and 1pm.

You can go to the tip.

You can go to the garden centre.

You can **shop** for DIY.

But to do so you will need to be patient, to queue, to be able to estimate 2m and be courteous to the staff.

THORNBURY'S first FITNESS FESTIVAL

WAS TO BE HELD

**Fri 22nd – Sun 24th May 2020 -
Armstrong Hall Complex**

**But has been postponed
until January 2021**

For more information please
contact Natasha Johnson
on 0781006872 or by email:
natashaleschinski@gmail.com

The Severnvale Art Trail artists have been displaying their talent online.

The Thornbury Arts Festival has also been cancelled. It was to have been the launchpad for one of the U3A (University of the Third Age) projects by Thornbury U3A Writers, a book of some of their recent stories:

Literate Allsorts.

Sadly it is not possible to bring this book to the attention of local residents by means of the Festival but it can be bought from Amazon, with any profits going to the Bristol Children's Hospital. The ISBN is 9798627705149

One of the contributors has sent in a poem written for current times and we have published it on page 29

The front cover picture is of a stream you may have seen on your walks, in a neighbouring village of Tockington. It was taken by Ken Pearce for one of the Alveston Walking calendars. So here's a bit of history.

Situated about 12 miles northwest of the centre of Bristol, Tockington lies between Catherine Hill and Fern Hill in the Vale of Severn, and is three miles from the M4/M5 interchange at Almondsbury. It has been part of the parish of Olveston since at least 1742.

Mentioned in the Domesday Book as "Tockintone", the name has since passed through Tokinton, Thokinton, Toketon, to Tockington. Most of the names hereabouts are Anglo-Saxon in origin, Tockington being thought to be derived from "Tocca's Tun". Tocca was a little known Saxon chieftain who based his Tun (Town) in this fertile valley, close to the edge of the Severn marshes. The Domesday Book entry reads as follows; *"Wulfgar, a thane of King Edward's, held Tockintone. There were 8 hides. 5 ploughs in lordship; 20 villagers, 12 small holders and 10 slaves with 20 ploughs. This manor did not pay revenue before 1066 but its owner lived off it. Earl William held it in lordship. The reeve added 1 plough and a mill 8d. (Now it pays £24 of white money at 20 (pence) to the ora [ounce]."*

Following the Norman conquest, the Manor of Tockington was held by the Poyntz family (who had come over with William I) until 1609. Since then it has passed through several hands and has been rebuilt on several occasions in several different locations. The present house was built sometime in the 16th century and is now a private school.

The Domesday Book recorded 66 inhabitants in Olveston & Tockington villages at the end of the 11th century. There is no record of population changes until 1711, when the two villages and surrounding land are recorded as having 240 inhabitants. The population rose pretty rapidly over the next century and a half, reaching 1,740 in 1871, and then fell to 1,240 in 1951. In the 1991 census, it stood at 2,045.

The census returns of 1742 and 1851 afford snapshots of the population of the parish and the occupation of the inhabitants in the mid 18th and 19th centuries. In 1742 there were 117 houses, in 1851 there were 300 houses and at the present day probably over 700. The 1742 census was an unofficial one conducted by the then vicar. In general, only the names of heads of households are given and the style is racy. In the 1851 census, about 50 heads of households are shown as farmers (including three bailiffs and a yeoman).

Three of these were women. The farms ranged from 7 to 378 acres. Nearly 100 men are listed as "Agricultural Labourers" as no doubt also were members of their families. Specifically mentioned are a shepherd, a game keeper and a colt breaker. Over 150 men are shown as (general) labourers and 85 people were in domestic service. (In 1742 servants were numerically the largest class of employed people). The 1851 return shows more than 60 households with domestic servants living in and, in a few cases, the servants outnumbered the rest of the household. Other occupations represented were gardeners, carpenters, saddlers, masons, sawyers, blacksmiths, a bricklayer, a glazier, a haulier, painters, tilers and plasterers. There were shoemakers (including those described as cordwainers), a coachman, a cooper, a lime burner and a miner. There was a solicitor, a timber dealer, a man described as "keeping market", a dentist, three doctors, an ensign in the Wiltshire Regiment, a lieutenant of the Royal Wiltshire Militia and three outpensioners of Chelsea Hospital. There were dressmakers, a seamstress and a frockmaker, a bonnet maker and a straw bonnet maker, a pillow lace maker and "washwomen" and laundresses. There was also a sprinkling of landed proprietors and other apparently well to do persons.

A feature very noticeable to strangers are the rhines (pronounced reens) which drain the surface water in the area. It must be remembered that most of this area is in the Severn flood plain and much of it would have been marshland which flooded regularly. The drainage of marshland goes back to Saxon times and some of the rhines have Saxon names, such as Old Splott.

Up to Tudor times land drainage was the responsibility of individual landowners. Commissions of sewers were set up by Henry VII to take on this work (the commissioners included some of the prominent landowners in the area). The commissions continued until 1930, when, in this area, the South Gloucestershire Internal Drainage Board was established. The rhines formerly had to be maintained by manual labour, but maintenance is now carried out mechanically. The two arterial rhines, Olveston Mill Rhine and Tockington Mill Rhine accept the

water from the minor rhines such as Hephills, Olveston Drainage, New Holm, Gunhurn, Bunsham and Niatts. The bank built on the Severn shore to prevent tidal floods has been progressively raised. Recently new sluice gates have been built at Cake Pill Gout and Chestle Pill Gout to control the tidal waters.

Strange as it may seem now, waterways were once a method of transport within the parish, hence the several Port Farms in the area. There were two major waterways, one which connected with the Severn at Cake Pill Gout, with a port for Olveston at the Meads (near Mead Farm) and another which left the Severn at Chestle Pill Gout, passed through Lower Tockington and continued as far as Sheepcombe Farm. At Sheepcombe, goods were transhipped onto pack mules and taken up the old trackway (which still exists today) to Alveston.

Mains water was first introduced to the parish, courtesy of the West Gloucestershire Waterworks Company, in 1907. Initially the supply was to standpipes serving groups of dwellings, but by the early 1950's most homes in the parish had their own piped water. Before the mains were put in, water came from pumps and wells. During the second world war a survey showed that there were 11 public and 44 private wells in the parish

Electricity first came to Tockington in the 1920's courtesy of the Bristol Corporation Electricity Company, which had bought out a private generating company in Lower Almondsbury. Although Tockington was on the route of the stage coach between London and the Aust Ferry, carrying passengers bound for Ireland by way of Fishguard, the first genuinely local public transport in the area was a limited service introduced by the Bristol Tramway Omnibus Company in 1920, and extended to Aust in 1930. The buses ran at two hourly intervals (a much better service than exists today, with only two buses per day between Tockington and Bristol!)

(Re-printed with permission – originally at <http://www.mabbott.org.uk/tockington-jm.htm> by John Hervey Mason who writes 'I am indebted for much of the information to "A Brief History of Olveston Parish", published by the Olveston Parish Historical Society in 1995'.

I'M NOT AT HOME TO CALLERS

I'm not at home to callers, apart from those I love,
To others I say plainly - it's orders from above.

For Boris, he has spoken, he wants to save my life
And you always can trust Boris, unless you are his wife.

So my lovers all are welcome, as long as they don't
cough.

If so, to quote dear Boris, I'll tell them to push off.

No panic I'm indulging, I will not over-buy.
My home is full to bulging with food to roast or fry.

So I'm not at home to callers unless you're on my list.
It's short and growing shorter and on it I insist.

Unless of course you come with food. Then arms are
open wide.

Just leave it on the doorstep - no need to come inside!

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THORNBURY & DISTRICT MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH A HISTORY PROJECT

Thornbury and DISTRICT Museum, yes our District is very important! We have been closed to visitors for a while now, but still keep a check on the museum and are having great success with our Facebook page.

We have a new project, launched on Facebook, to capture contemporary history for a change.

PLEASE HELP US GATHER AND KEEP THE LOCAL HISTORY OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) 2020

We are experiencing one of the worst times in our lives, just as people did during WW1 and WW2. Coronavirus (Covid19) 2020 will also become history and in future schoolchildren will learn about it.

As a museum, we have recognised responsibility to gather, document and preserve a record of this unique and awful time for Thornbury and the surrounding District. We invite anyone wanting to participate to keep notes or a diary and/or photos of anything that you, your friends or family experience, good and bad, during this time. This could relate to absolutely anything with a local flavour as national information will be well documented. But please do not send photos of anyone without their permission. You can send us information at any time, or wait until this episode in our history has passed.

By email: museum.thornbury@gmail.com or by post to the usual address.



Important: By submitting information, the museum will assume that you give permission for the material to be used in the future. This could be in print or on-line, in one of our exhibitions, or saved in our archive.

When the museum re-opens, we will start to go through all that we have received from everyone and decide how we can best use it.

Meanwhile, do visit our Facebook page which can be found on our museum website home page, scroll down to find the blue icon on the left-hand side.

<http://www.thornburymuseum.org.uk/>

Out Walking?

We also received a request for help from Reg King, one of our volunteers, to photograph and record stone stiles in the area. Many have already been snapped, but with all this outdoor exercise being enjoyed, maybe you will come across one which has been overlooked. Stone stiles have not been systematically recorded and protected by the Historic Environment Record, so this will form a valuable archive too. You can send photos to the same email address and we will save and forward them to Reg.

museum.thornbury@gmail.com



2020 CANCELLED BECAUSE OF COVID-19

Thornbury Carnival's committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 event, which had been due to take place on Saturday 4th July.

Liam Williams, Chair of the committee said:

"Clearly this was not the course of action we'd wanted to take but given the continued lockdown measures and the expected phased relaxation over the summer, we felt this was the only viable option."

Liam explained that although the committee hopes the situation in the UK will have improved by early July, they realise it is likely that some form of shielding will still be necessary for many in the community and, as a community event, they want everyone to be able to participate and enjoy it. Also, working closely with suppliers, performers, volunteers and all of the other stakeholders needed to host such a large community event is just not feasible in the current situation.

Liam said:

"We'd like to send our sincere apologies to the communities of Thornbury and the surrounding area, and to thank you for your support in the past. The committee has already put a huge amount of time and effort into this year's carnival so we're really disappointed we won't get to deliver the event in July."

The committee is already turning its attention to the 2021 event which will take place on

Saturday 3rd July 2021.

Contact: Sarah Openshaw Thornbury Carnival Press,
Sponsorship & Marketing Email:
marketing@thornburycarnival.co.uk

HERE IS SOME ADVICE ON SCAMS

The National Cyber Security Centre has set up a Suspicious Email Reporting Service. Forward dodgy emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. If you have a hunch it might be a scam, report it and help them to act quickly.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES

Lots of them advertise in the Helmet
There's not much you can't buy at The Parade.
Paul Jones greengrocers are taking orders for deliveries .
There should be less risk of infection and silly scrummages.

Alveston Parish Council information can now be found at <https://alveston.org>

Please visit the website for all the latest information.

Contact Alveston Parish Council on: 01454 413550
email: clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk

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ALVESTON ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Another month has gone by, and despite a couple of rainy days early on, the soil is now very dry. Most plot holders are busy with their watering cans – it can take many trips with a pair of two-gallon cans to cover the crops that need it, though some people seldom seem to water and their plants still survive.

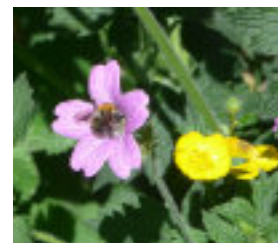
The allotments are fast seeing a forest of bean poles being erected and this year many people are reinforcing theirs with stakes and other methods in anticipation of strong winds later in the season, which last year saw several blown over when heavy with beans.

Strawberries are beginning to ripen and those that are lucky enough to have an asparagus bed are harvesting some lovely looking spears.

The warm weather seems to favour the wild life. Many folk have experienced onion tops and early planted sweet corn nibbled by rabbits, and squirrels have been seen attacking plants. At least it is too dry for most slugs and snails at the moment.

A swarm of bees briefly settled in a rose bush on one of the plots before flying off to find a new home. As the old saying has it - 'A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay' !!

If you would be interested in joining us, please contact the clerk to the Parish Council Graham Smith on clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk to ask for your name to be added to the short waiting list.



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Online Lego club

Look out on Facebook every Monday for Lego Club online, have fun building a model to meet the challenge for the week and share it with us! So far we've enjoyed seeing some fabulous monsters, space craft and sea creatures.



Keeping you reading:

Our latest new service is newspapers; we are now able to deliver 1000's of digital newspapers direct to your screen, including most national daily newspapers – as well as reducing your visits to the shops it will also save you money. So whether you're looking for the latest issue of BBC Good Food magazine, today's edition of The Guardian, or a great book to read or listen to, go to <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/library-e-resources/> to get started with your South Gloucestershire library membership number as printed on your library card.

And your Helmet editor has discovered that there are some classics free on Amazon for the Kindle (or Kindle app you can use on a PC, laptop, smartphone and tablet - and presumably anything with an i-in front of it and logo of a bitten fruit. I downloaded 'Anne of Green Gables' and 'White Fang'.

How Alveston is coping with the lock-down

During the Covid-19 Lock-down Alveston has been blessed to have many people helping the older or less mobile residents in our lovely village and area. One very special group of young volunteers was quickly organised back in March and has been helping many of us since then. The Community Action Group will run errands and help out in many ways. As the emergency began over 30 young volunteers added their names to the list compiled by Carly Rudrum-Baker. They delivered information notes to about 50 streets in our village to tell residents that they were willing and able to help with shopping etc. and soon the scheme was in action. Street Wardens were quickly set in place throughout Alveston. Carly has reported that they are collecting prescriptions, doing shopping from local shops and on-line for those who find this difficult. They are also dog-walking and grass-cutting for a couple of elderly residents. Helmet would like to say a big "Thank you" to these wonderful people. If you or someone you know needs their help please contact your Street Warden or call Carly on 0781 309 5565

Helmet would also like to mention that many local residents have said they are so grateful for the caring services provided by local shopkeepers who have been delivering fruit and vegetables, meat, prescriptions and other essential items in and around Alveston. It has been a tremendous help for many old and new customers. Thank you everyone for really pulling together. Many are making sure they ring round to check friends and neighbours are not in need. Just to have a chat to someone when you haven't seen or spoken much that day helps time to pass more pleasantly. We can all benefit from keeping in touch. The churches are providing on-line services including as many members as they can with modern technology such as Zoom and YouTube.

Other residents have been helping by using skills to sew Hospital "scrubs", face masks and generally keeping an eye on elderly and/or vulnerable neighbours. We have seen many front lawns with piles of garden items, toys etc. Free to take away! It has been an ideal opportunity for many to have a "Sort Out".

Please let us know of any other special groups of people who are helping during the Covid-19 lock-down and remember to Stay Safe and Stay Alert and whatever else we are told to do either by government, local councils or our own common-sense.

Elaine Lee email: elainelee46@virginmedia.com or telephone 419322 if you need more info.

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STAFFED TIMES

Monday	9.30am-5.30pm
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Thursday	9.30am-5.30pm
Friday	9.30am-5.30pm
Saturday	9.30am-12.30pm

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UN World Environment Day on June 5th reminds us that it's Time for Nature

"The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature.

Yet, these are exceptional times in which nature is sending us a message:

To care for ourselves we must care for nature.

It's time to wake up. To take notice. To raise our voices.

It's time to build back better for People and Planet".

It is five years since Pope Francis' Encyclical on the care of our common home, which has been inspiring prayer and action for the environment. The non denominational Eco Church organisation has been encouraging churches to work for awards by making positive changes in every aspect of church and personal life. Over 2800 churches have registered on the Eco Church scheme, with over 800 having received awards. The tenth ever gold award has been awarded to St Helens' (the one on the Isle of Wight). 42 faith institutions from 14 countries, including 21 from the UK, have divested their investments from fossil fuel businesses. Recently, a church Carbon Footprint calculator, called 360 Carbon, has been released, and all churches working for awards will be expected to use it. (Our St Helen's has the bronze award). Anglican churches already have to report annually on their energy use and hopefully to reduce emissions year on year.

Those of us interested in our natural world, who want to engage more with nature and enjoy creation, are being encouraged to take part in the Wildlife Trusts' challenge for June, '30 Days Wild'. This can be done by individuals, households, care homes, businesses and schools etc ... Resources include a wall chart, wildlife bingo, an activity passport and nature table template. They are only available digitally, for download, and there is also an interactive app for iPhone and android, and you can sign up for a daily email. You can select activity ideas from **101 Random Acts of Wildness**. Do you fancy baking Hedgehog cupcakes or learning wildlife photography? If the answer is 'yes' then this is something to occupy us during our Covid times.

We have a request for issues 157 – 177 (about 1985-87) and 180-209 (1988 to end 1990) and. 233-255 (April 1993-June 1995) if anyone has a store in their loft.

We need your articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication. Send to

alvestonmag@gmail.com

Or post to 'Helmet Magazine', 1 Beech Close, Alveston, BS35 3NH.

Deadlines –

JULY/AUG edition June 1st for distribution on or by June 30th

This may not happen as what we can do obviously depends upon Covid-19 progression, government advice and availability of personnel

NOTICEBOARD

Helmet dates 2020

We collate/deliver on the LAST Tuesday of each month

The deadline is the 1st of the previous month. We are still taking our usual breaks for August and January

Edition Deadline

Coroana Permitting

July	JUNE 1	JUNE 30
Sept	AUG 1	AUG 25
Oct	SEPT 1	SEPT 29
Nov	OCT 1	OCT 27
Dec	NOV 1	NOV 24

Some Relevant Websites:-

www.worldenvironmentday.global/
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>
<https://arocha.org.uk/>

CONTENTS this month include

Updates from South Glos Council
pg 8, 18-19

News from the churches: how to
keep in touch and some
recommended reading pg5 & 9f

Helmet archives – a letter about
The Bell, pg 20

Useful contacts, pg 23

Local history of our district –
Tockington pg 26

A poem pg 29

A request from the district museum
volunteers pg 33, 35

Alveston Allotments update, pg 39

Latest from the Library pg 42

Alveston in Lockdown pg 44

Eco Church news and resources
for nature study pg 46

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